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(54) **A lifting and supporting aid**

(57) The present invention provides a belt (10) that, in use, is attachable around the midriff of a person's body and can be used as an aid to lift or support the person, the belt (10) including:

fastening means (13) that releasably fasten the belt (10) around the person's midriff;

handle means (11A, 11B) that when gripped by a third party can aid with the lifting and support of the person;

means (14A, 14B, 14C, 14D; 14A', 14B', 14C', 14D')

for receiving at least one first strap (30, 31) member such that the belt can be converted into a harness which is connectable to a first lifting or support apparatus (40) that can lift or support the person from above; and

connecting means (15) that, in use, are connectable to a support member that can support a further portion of the person's body and/or to at least one second strap member which is attachable to a second lifting or support apparatus that can lift or support the person from the side.

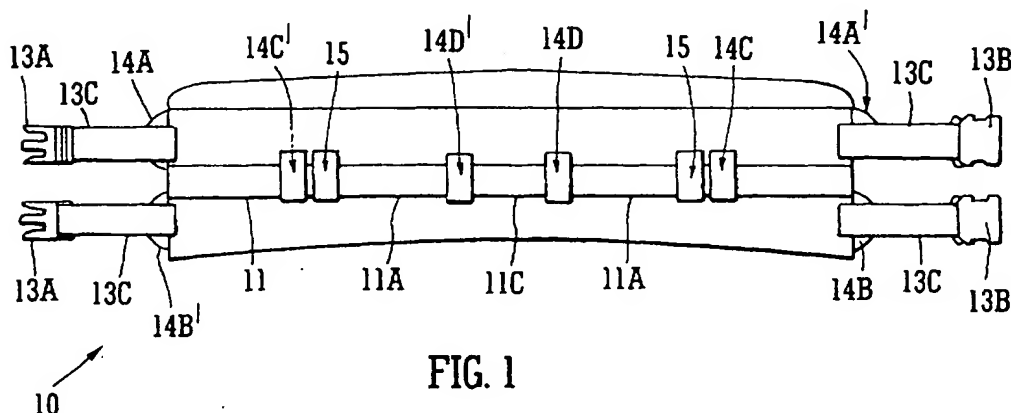


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 00 30 8997

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Y	* page 7, line 14 - page 8, line 5; figures *	3,6,13	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 July 2002	Examiner Godot, T
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